

Navigating Your Way Through the AAC Device Selection Maze

Debby McBride, MS, CCC-SLP
Libby Rush, MS, CCC-SLP

This session will assist clinicians and persons as the search for and sort through information on AAC devices and communication tools. This information/website/products has currently been selected as a project with the AAC – RERC in order to provide up –to -date information about AAC devices and communication tool options.

Participants will learn how to more effectively research devices to meet their situational needs, and leave with both information and resources to immediately accomplish these goals.

Following is a summary of the session. Additional handouts and resources will be provided at the session.

How to select the appropriate augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) device.

- Explore the variety of options using resources developed/provided by presenters.
- Reason for choosing AAC devices
- Decision-making process

Explore “types” or “categories” of devices

- Look at features of each “type”
- Case histories / “types” of device as examples
- Explore needs for both individuals and evaluation tools

Demonstrations of tools available from AAC TechConnect

- 2007-2008 Lite Tech Low Cost AAC Chart demonstration. This chart, from Libby Rush/ Mary Joan McClure, summarizes 275+ low to mid-tech range of communication tools.
- Free information resources from www.aacTechConnect.com on 100+ devices from one website location, can assist in locating the appropriate devices and vendor/manufacturer resources.
- Device Assistant: online clinical tools allows for the selection of specific features required on a voice output device. Participants will receive a free trial.
- Side-by-side comparisons for communication tools/devices from the simplest to the most sophisticated by using these tools.
- Participants will receive a discount for online purchases

Tools/resources provided to participants

- Blank device comparison charts
- CD with AAC device flyers from most of the major manufacturers
- Free trial of Device Assistant

